II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for assigning a device identifier to a device, the method comprising:

receiving a request for the device identifier at a server;

obtaining the device identifier, the device identifier being always associated with a same device and unique from device identifiers of other devices of the server, that is dynamically ~~generated~~ created and allocated by the server in response to the request and unrelated to a network address, mobile phone number or host name of the device;

marking a status of the device identifier as pending;

sending the device identifier to the device;

marking the status of the device identifier as in use after receiving an acknowledgment from the device; and

sending a confirmation to the device after the acknowledgment is received,

wherein the device is a wireless device that does not have a readily accessible device identifier or other communications related information ~~and for which a network address, mobile phone number or host name cannot be used as the device identifier~~.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second acknowledgment from the device; and

sending a second confirmation to the device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising managing a set of device entries at the server, wherein each of the set of device entries includes a device identifier, a status, and correlation data, and wherein the request includes correlation data for the device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the correlation data includes a device type that is not the manufacturer and user data.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein each of the set of device entries further includes a timestamp, the method further comprising setting the timestamp when the status is marked as pending.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining step includes:

providing correlation data at the server;

generating at least one device identifier based on the correlation data before the request is received;

marking the status of the generated at least one identifier as unused; and

locating one of the at least one device identifier having a status marked as unused after the request is received using the correlation data for the at least one device identifier and

correlation data in the request.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining step includes generating a device identifier after receiving the request using correlation data in the request.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising marking the status of the device identifier as unused if the acknowledgment is not received after a time out period.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

reusing the device identifier for another request received from another device after a time out period has elapsed; and

sending a rejection to the device if the acknowledgment is received after the time out period has elapsed.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining a device identifier for a device, the method comprising:

sending a request for the device identifier to a server, the device identifier being always associated with a same device and unique from device identifiers of other devices of the server and unrelated to a network address or host name of the device;

sending an acknowledgment to the server after receiving the device identifier from the server; and

using the device identifier after receiving a confirmation from the server,

wherein the device is a wireless device that does not have a readily accessible device identifier or other communications related information ~~and for which a network address or host name cannot be used as the device identifier~~.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a timestamp is also received from the server, and wherein the acknowledgment includes the device identifier and the timestamp.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the request includes correlation data.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the correlation data includes a device type that is not the manufacturer for the device and user data for a user of the device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising sending a second acknowledgment to the server if the confirmation has not been received after a time out period.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for assigning a device identifier to a device, the system comprising:

an assignment system for managing an assignment of the device identifier at a server, wherein the assignment system obtains the device identifier in response to a request, the device identifier being <u>always associated with a same device and</u> unique from device identifiers of other devices of the server <u>and unrelated to a network address or host name of the device</u>, marks a status of the device identifier as pending, and marks the status of the device identifier as in use in

response to an acknowledgment of the device identifier from the device; and

a server communication system for sending the device identifier to the device, sending a confirmation to the device after the acknowledgment is received, and for receiving the request and the acknowledgment from the device,

wherein the device is a wireless device that does not have a readily accessible device identifier or other communications related information ~~and for which a network address or host name cannot be used as the device identifier~~.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a request system for obtaining the device identifier from the server, wherein the request system generates the request and the acknowledgment;

a device communication system for sending the request and the acknowledgment to the server, and for receiving the device identifier and the confirmation from the server; and

an identifier system that uses the device identifier after the confirmation is received.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a management system for managing a set of device entries, wherein each of the set of device entries includes a unique device identifier, a status, and correlation data, wherein the request includes correlation data for the device; and

a comparison system for obtaining one of the set of device entries based on correlation data for the device.

18. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for assigning device identifiers, which when executed comprises:

program code for receiving a request for the device identifier at a server;

program code for obtaining the device identifier, the device identifier being always associated with a same device and unique from device identifiers of other devices of the server and unrelated to a network address or host name of the device;

program code for marking a status of the device identifier as pending;

program code for sending the device identifier to the device;

program code for marking the status of the device identifier as in use after receiving an acknowledgment from the device; and

program code for sending a confirmation to the device after the acknowledgment is received,

wherein the device is a wireless device that does not have a readily accessible device identifier or other communications related information ~~and for which a network address or host name cannot be used as the device identifier~~.

19. (Original) The program product of claim 18, further comprising:

program code for sending the request to the server;

program code for sending the acknowledgment to the server after receiving the device identifier from the server; and

program code for using the device identifier after receiving the confirmation from the server.

20. (Original) The program product of claim 18, further comprising:

program code for reusing the device identifier for another request received from another device after a time out period has elapsed; and

program code for sending a rejection to the device if the acknowledgment is received after the time out period has elapsed.